

## Appendix B, Hearing Assistance Systems, Newcastle University

Hearing enhancement systems are essential for improving communications and in enabling people who are deaf and hard of hearing to receive amplified sound signals without interference from background noise.

Hearing enhancement systems should be provided in rooms used for meetings, lectures, classes, performances, announcements and at reception, enquiry, payment and service counters.

There are two principal systems in use, Induction loop and IR systems and both can be deployed as either fixed systems or portable units. A fixed system, installed at floor level, is the preferred and recommended option to ensure technical standards compliance however it is acknowledged there may be circumstances where a portable system may be utilised in lieu of a fixed system such as in small meeting rooms, interview rooms etc.

The exact system to be used shall be determined in conjunction with the ESS accessibility adviser and the AV technical team from NUIT. This advice should be sought at an early stage of any design or retrofitting process in order to determine the most appropriate type of equipment for the specific location and to meet the users' needs.

Where fixed induction loops are recommended the design and installation shall be carried out to the [assistive hearing policy](#) available on the Audio Visual web page. If portable systems are recommended then the support and management needs to be agreed in advance with the space owner or academic unit

The availability of all hearing enhancement systems should be clearly signed using the relevant public information symbol. Signs should be located on the approach to and within rooms or areas fitted with such systems.

All hearing assistance systems should be regularly tested and maintained. Tests should include equipment tests as well as user trials. Where systems are installed in areas not supported by NUIT Audio Visual Services the space owner or academic unit shall be made aware of the requirements for testing.

Contacts.

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NUIT AVS via <http://www.ncl.ac.uk/itservice/teaching-rooms/supportedspaces/assistivehearingsystems/>